



NRCS New Mexico Black Emphasis Program

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Introduction

I welcome the opportunity to serve as your Black Emphasis Program Manager (BEPM) for the upcoming year. I look forward to continue building on what each of the previous BEPM's have already established here in New Mexico. Working collectively with the Civil Rights Staff and other Special Emphasis Managers in the State, my endeavor is to successfully continue fostering an active and progressive program that encourages community diversity.

Recent Events

Last week I attended the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees (NOPBNRCSE) Conference, in Little Rock, Arkansas. It was a great experience for me, as it was my first time attending an organizational conference. The agenda was well organized with an overwhelming breadth of topics, including workshops and exhibits. The conference attendance included NRCS employees and guests nationally. Also, representation by all of the NRCS Special Emphasis groups and NRCS organizations and councils was present.

"Not withstanding the progress that has been made, there's still a long way to go."

*Mike Beebe, Attorney General
of Arkansas*

Other NRCS NM Special Emphasis Programs and Managers

American Indian/Alaskan Native Emphasis Program
Nathaniel Todea, (505) 761-4461
www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/about/eoo/naip/american-indian.html

Disability Emphasis Program
Barbara Garrett, (505) 761-4406
www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/about/eoo/disability/disability.html

Federal Women's Program
Brenda Simpson, (505) 287-4045
www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/about/eoo/women/women.html

Hispanic Emphasis Program
David Manzanares, (505) 753-6412
www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/about/eoo/hispanic/hispanic.html

Veterans Emphasis Program
Donna Lisby, (505) 398-5857
www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/about/eoo/veterans/veterans.html

Upcoming Events

The next few months will consist of observances for contributions made by African Americans. Please consider participating in some of the upcoming events, as they are filled with information that helps us all better understand the communities we live in.

"We must combine the toughness of the serpent and the softness of the dove, a tough mind and a tender heart."

*Martin Luther King Jr.,
Strength to Love, 1963.*

January

16th

Martin Luther King Birthday Observance

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Ph.D. (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was a Baptist minister and political activist who was the most famous leader of the American civil rights movement. King won the Nobel Peace Prize and Presidential Medal of Freedom before being assassinated in 1968. For his promotion of non-violence and racial equality, King is considered a peacemaker and martyr by many people around the world. Martin Luther King Day was established in his honor. ([Wikipedia](#), 2005)

February

1st - 28th

Black History Month Observance

Carter Godwin Woodson, also referred to as the "Father of Black History" said, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history." (Chicago public library, Dorothy E. Lyles, Compiler, 2/00).

Black History month is an opportunity to celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Black Americans and their many contributions to the building of history.



The Rev. Martin Luther King, speaking at the March on Washington, Aug. 28, 1963.
Credit: National Archives

FY 2006 Outlook

Throughout the 2006 year, our key objective is to continue fostering a healthy diversified workforce that represents the culture not limited to New Mexico, but even our neighboring States. Currently, another area of focus is:

- 1890 Scholar Program - identifying qualification criteria's for the program; and finding qualified candidates throughout New Mexico.

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody"

*Bill Cosby, African-American author
and comedian*

Summary

This is the beginning of a series of updates that I will be providing you. I hope to be able to stimulate positive and creative thinking, as we work collectively in bringing together our cultures and ideas to continue building a healthy workforce and future for our children.

Again, I look forward to serving as your BEPM throughout this year. Please feel free to provide feedback of any kind.

Additional Information

The following are some photos taken while at the NOPBNRCSE Conference.



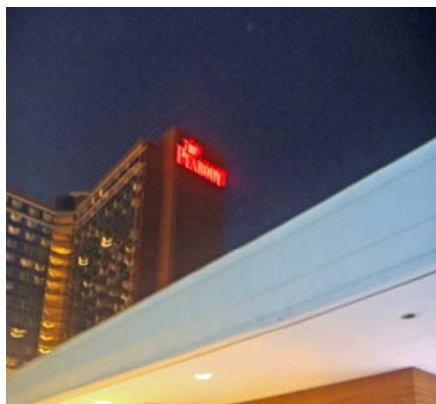
The Arkansas River



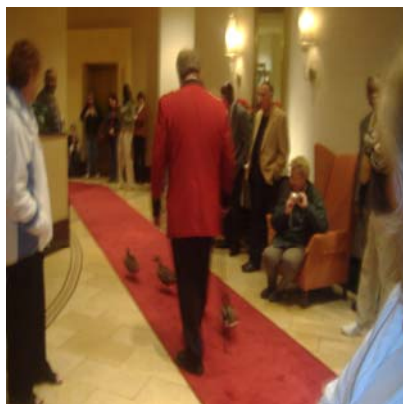
View of buildings downtown Little Rock, AR.
Presidential Library in far background.



Sharon Nance, Res. Con., presenting
award to Curtis Tarver, ASTC, Prog.



The Peabody Hotel



The Peabody Hotel, "The Peabody Little Rock Marching Ducks"



Chief Bruce Knight addressing audience.



Black farmers being recognized at conference.



Black farmers being recognized at conference.

- Photos taken by: Dennis Workeman



USDA NRCS NM - BEP

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